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ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Leonardtown

circa 1766-1768

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church stands today little changed from its original appearance. Designed by Richard Boulton who also carved the interior architectural embellishments, the church was built in the Georgian style with classical motifs. Of brick, Flemish bond construction, it is a rectangular block measuring 55 by 40 feet with the facade on the west. This elevation, known as one of the most unusual in Maryland, has a centered door and flanking windows set within a recessed portico. Directly above, at the attic-gable level, is a pedimented Palladian window. At each corner of this same elevation stands a two-story brick tower with stubby pyramid roof (the towers were never finished), brick quoins at the ground-floor level and arched statuary niches at both levels.

The balconied interior has a barrel-vaulted central ceiling supported by fluted columns of the Ionic order and flanked by flat-ceilinged side aisles, a scheme typical in 18th century St.

Mary's County, but unique to southern Maryland. The finely carved altarpiece, also of the Ionic order, has a segmentally arched broken pediment supported by fluted pilasters and frames an elaborate reredos painted by John Freich. The nave is divided by side aisles which are intersected halfway by a cross aisle. Other interesting interior features include the chancel rail and paneled wainscoting.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places. United States Department of the Interior.

St. Andrew's Church is the principal and earliest church building now standing within the bounds of St. Andrew's Parish. The Parish, composed of parts of both All Faith and William and Mary Parishes, was established in 1744 but did not actively function until 1753. The present building was constructed at a cost of 160,000 pounds of tobacco and 100 pounds sterling. The contract was awarded to Samuel Abell. Jr., who followed the design prepared by Richard Boulton (excepting an originally planned central tower which the vestry did not approve). The reredos was painted in 1771 at a cost of 16 pounds, 10 shillings, plus room and board for the artist, and took five weeks to complete, not including the mounting of the work on the altarpiece.

This property has been included on the National Parister of

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE Maryland COUNTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

St. Mary's FOR NPS USE ONLY

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St. Andrew's Church is located five miles east of Leonardtown, Maryland, on the west side of St. Andrew's Church Road.

The exterior of the nave of St. Andrew's Church is a rectangular brick box laid in Flemish bond with an "A" roof and round arched windows trimmed with brick segmental arches. On the west front, however, all convention is abandoned in a flourish of architectural forms. At both the northwest and southwest corners stands a two-story square brick tower with a diminutive spire. Brick quoins trim the corners of the towers up to the string course. Each tower has two niches on the west side that are framed with a raised brick arch, awaiting some appropriate statue or urn. On the south and north side of each tower is a round arched window situated above a shallow recess framed with a brick arch.

Between the towers at ground level is a recessed one-story loggia. Above the loggia is a two-tiered gallery lighted by a Palladian window centered under the pedimented gable end. A separate exterior door and staircase lead to the upper tier of the gallery, and an interior step ladder leads to the lower gallery.

On the interior, the church has a barrel-vault ceiling over the nave which is supported by columns with Ionic capitals. Each of the two side aisles has a flat ceiling. The original flagstones pave the floor. The carved wooden reredos have fluted Ionic pilasters which frame Biblical quotations painted by John Friech in 1771. The church has box pews.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "dean" of Maryland architectural historians, Henry Chandlee Forman, has said: "The most interesting facade of all the Georgian churches in the Free State undoubtedly belongs to St. Andrew's Church, . . . "1 The pastiche of architectural forms on the western facade of St. Andrew's is unequalled in eighteenth-century Maryland architecture.

Richard Boulton designed the church in 1766. He is attributed with the design and execution of the outstanding carving and ornamentation at Sotterley, located approximately ten miles northeast of St. Andrew's, and at Bushwood, another St. Mary's County house which burned in the twentieth century. Very little is known about Boulton's career. The fact that he worked for George Plater of Sotterley who was a member of St. Andrew's Parish may explain the vestry's choice of Boulton to design their church.

St. Andrew's vestry records give a complete and detailed accounting of the construction of the church. On April 26, 1766, the vestry recorded their specifications. The building was to be fifty feet, exclusive of the chancel, by forty feet, with painted and wainscoted box pews with doors, flagstone aisles, an Ionic altar piece, a cypress shingle roof, quoins made of stock bricks, an arched ceiling, and flat ceilings over the two side aisles, all with an aisle height of fourteen feet. These specifications still adequately describe St. Andrew's Church.

Although the vestry was very particular, as illustrated in the above specifications, they allowed Boulton a free hand in the design of the exterior. An irrational, naive west facade resulted which contrasts markedly with the usual harmonious, rational, and understated facades of most eighteenth-century churches, e.g., Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia. However, the quality of St. Andrew's comes from this architectural quirk.

In 1744, St. Andrew's Parish was created in St. Mary's County to provide an Anglican church for Leonardtown, the county seat. According to canon law, the parish could not officially

[see continuation sheet]

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland	
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(Continuation Sheet)

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St. Andrew's Church

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

be established until the priests of the two older parishes out of which St. Andrew's was laid had died or left their churches.

Although early members of St. Andrew's included some outstanding residents of Southern Maryland, including Governor George Plater, the church never flourished, and it closed in 1870. In 1934, St. Andrew's opened its doors for the Maryland Tercentennary celebration.

Services are conducted at St. Andrew's during of each year, denoting a revival of local interest in the building. (as of 1972)

Thenry Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War (Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968), p. 46.

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 the files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis,
 Maryland.
- Waite, James. Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. July 21, 1971. Colonial Williamsburg has no evidence to support the contention that Richard Boulton was ever in Williamsburg, Virginia.

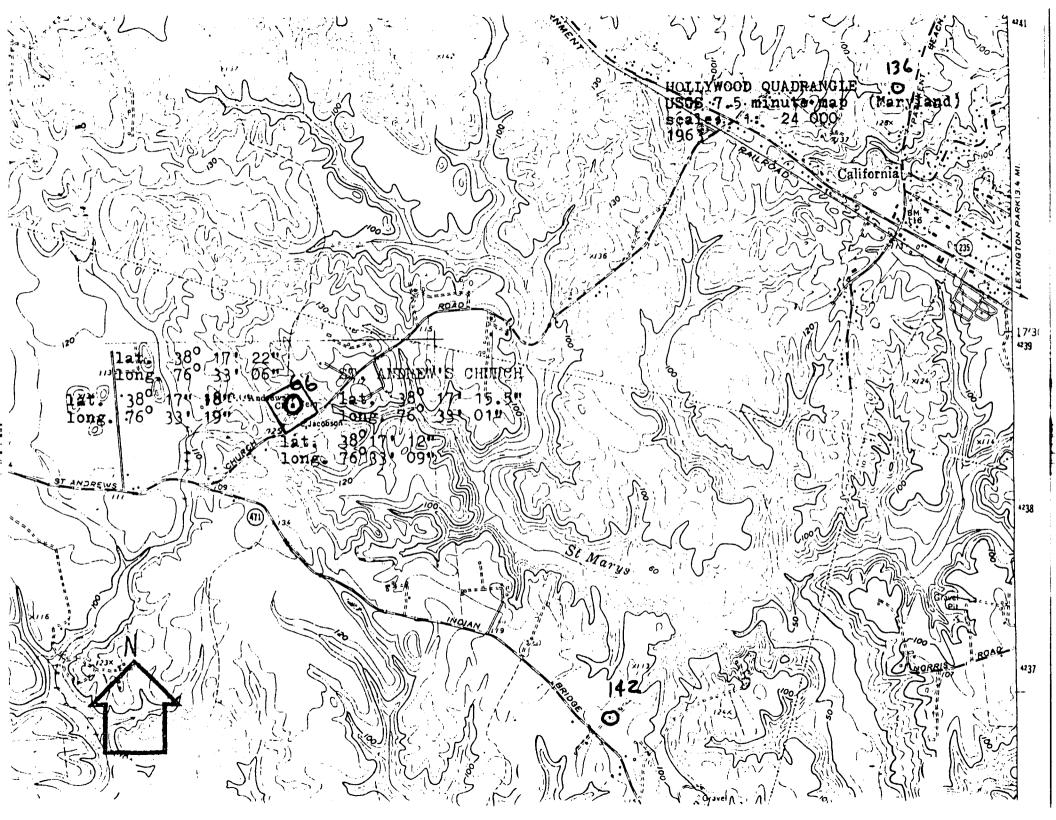
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ınd Especially in St. Mary's County 1634-1776." Chronicles of St. Mary's. Vol. XIV. (October 1966), 309-327.

Maryland Architecture A Short History Forman, Henry Chandlee. from 1634 through the Civil War. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

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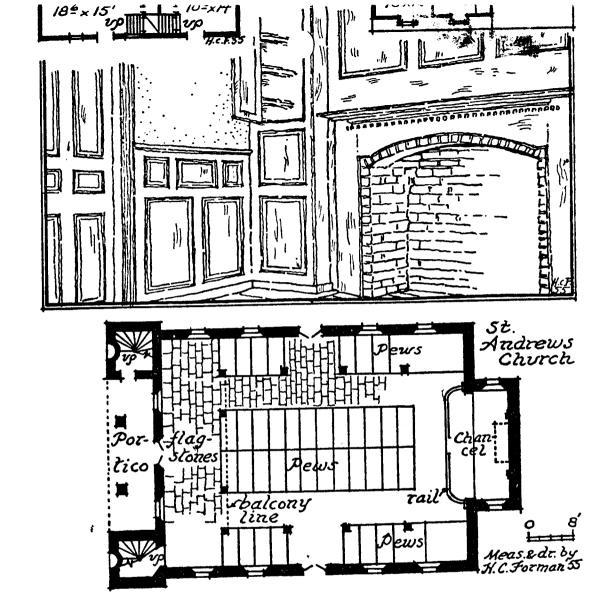
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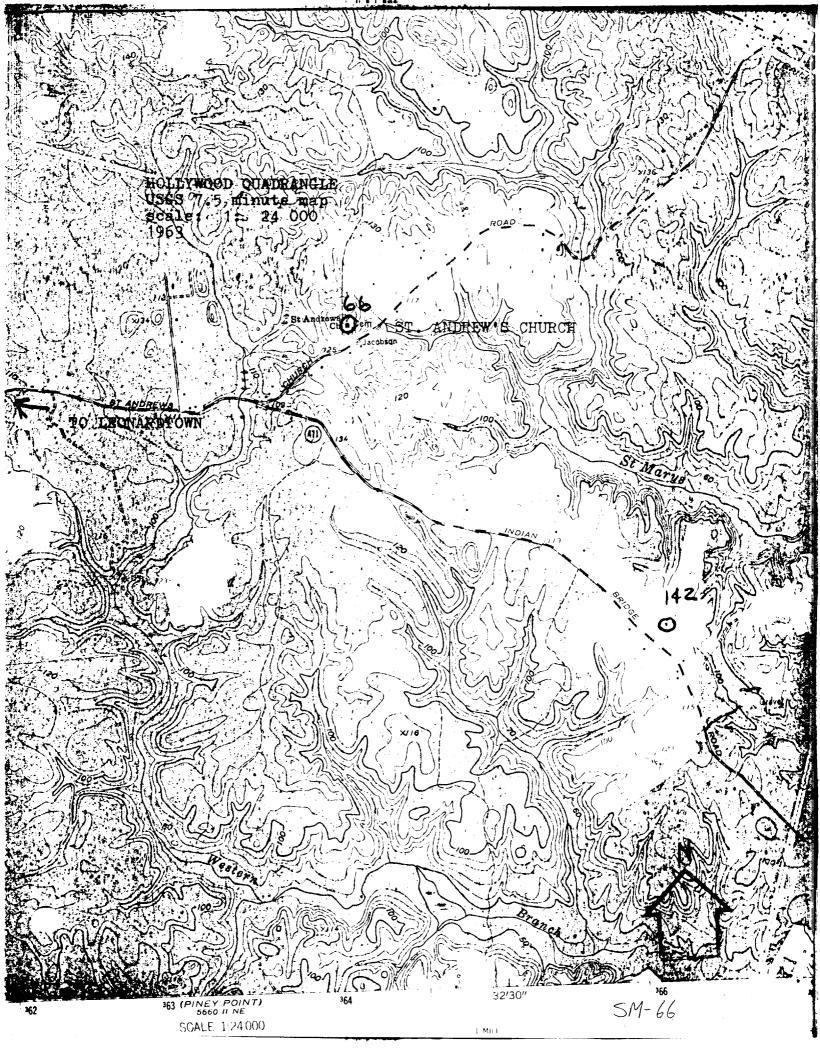
of those days, next reinterior, including the doors were to be foldre to be pulley weights laid up with brick set he floor. The church dle spire excepted)."



One of the least-known early dwellings in Prince George's County is THE BARRY PLACE, with its fine woodwork in the Great Room. Below. a measured floor plan of ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, St. Mary's County, built in 1766-67.

HC Forman Sidewater Hd. Arch and Gardens NY: Benanya Biroks, 1956, 115

SM-66





SM-66 ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SM-66 ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



St. Andrew's Episcopal SM-4
Resurrection Manor Church SM-66
Hollywood, Maryland

West facade



SM-66 ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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